



Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee

January 9 - 10, 2007
Halifax, NS

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- Attendees:** Laurie Cranton (Chair), Glenn Joudrey (Vice Chair), Dave Fraser (ATVANS), Jamie Wolverton (SANS), Peter Doucet (ORRA), James Vance (NSTF), Raymond Plourde (Environment), Dr. Mike Howlett (Health), Paul D'Eon (Safety/Training), David Barrett (Landowner), Angela Chisholm (Tourism), Laura Barkhouse (Member at Large), Roger King (Member at Large), Robert Connell (Enforcement/Police), Charles Atkinson (Industry)
Ex-officio: Patricia MacNeil (DNR) (day one), Peter Labor (DEL), Bernie Clancey (DTW), Ted Scrutton (DHPP), Jennifer Annett (Secretariat)
- Guests:** Derick Stoddard (DNR), Lucas Wide (DHPP) (day two), Susan Hruszowy (DNR) (day two)
- Regrets:** John Mombourquette (OHV Enforcement/Conservation Officer), Patricia MacNeil (DNR) (day two), Vacant (Municipal), Vacant (Municipal)

----- Agenda Topics -----

Tuesday January 9 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins		30 min
9:00 AM Welcome, Introduction of Industry Member, Approval of Minutes, Reports	Laurie Cranton & Jennifer Annett	30 min
9:30 AM Decision Making Process & Dec. 6/06 Proceedings	Laurie Cranton & Jim Vance	30 min
10:00 AM Refining Mission & Ranking Priorities	All	2 hrs
12:00 PM LUNCH		45 min
12:45 PM Ranking Priorities	(Continued)	45 min
1:30 PM Subcommittees	All	1 hr
2:30 PM BREAK		15 min
2:45 PM Trail Subcommittee	Laurie Cranton & Jim Vance	1 hr 15 min
4:00 PM Adjournment for the day	Laurie Cranton	min

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Refining Mission & Ranking Priorities	All	2 hrs & 45 min
<p>Discussion: Committee reviewed mission/vision notes from Dec. 6/06 proceedings. Respect for landowners and environmental responsibility noted as important considerations for the mission/vision. Reminder made on the difference of a mission and vision. Mission to be targeted to the OHV user as much as possible.</p> <p>Committee identified the following priorities: #1 OHV Infrastructure Fund (e.g. allocation), #2 Communications (e.g. sustained efforts, reporting on progress, ads), #3 Trail/Park Network (e.g. permissions, highway crossings, legislation/gaps). Training/education/safety and enforcement are important but government departments have achieved some progress on these items already. Environment and Land were noted as key items all throughout the committee's work. Some points raised where that quick progress is desired, timing is key, gaps should be resolved as much as possible (e.g. unregistered machines, permit/plate visibility), the committee should strive for 1 tangible recommendation to Ministers per meeting to ensure progress.</p>		
<p>Action items:</p> <p>Draft a vision and mission and email to the Secretariat. Secretariat to email to the committee to finalize at the Feb. meeting.</p>	<p>Person responsible:</p> <p>Paul, Mike, Jim, Susan</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>Jan. 23/07</p>

Subcommittees	All	1 hr
<p>Discussion: The committee identified the need for 3 subcommittees: Trails, Communications, and Enforcement/Training/Safety/Education. The committee will handle all matters pertaining the OHV Infrastructure Fund (no subcommittee is needed at this time). The Trails Subcommittee will likely be asked to make recommendations on Fund applications. Formation of the 2 latter subcommittees noted as a future agenda item.</p>		
<p>Action items:</p> <p>NONE</p>	<p>Person responsible:</p>	<p>Deadline:</p>

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Trails Subcommittee	Laurie Cranton & Jim Vance	1 hr & 15 min
<p>Discussion: Proposed guiding principles, objectives and membership of Trails Subcommittee presented to committee based on planning meeting held by some committee members. Wordsmithing done by the group. It was noted that trail projects funded by the OHV Infrastructure Fund should have the support of the corresponding OHV organization. The subcommittee should become aware of high conservation value natural areas and seek to avoid them. 1st meeting of the Trails Subcommittee to occur – decision reached by consensus.</p>		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
1 st meeting of the Trails Subcommittee to occur.	Laurie	Feb. 20/07

Other Information

Meeting Adjourned: 4:00 p.m.

----- Agenda Topics -----

Wednesday January 10 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins		30 min
9:00 AM Communications Discussion	Lucas Wide	1 hr
10:00 AM OHV Organizational Update Process	Laurie Cranton	1 hr
11:00 AM New Regulations & Enforcement	To Be Determined	1 hr
12:00 PM LUNCH		45 min
12:45 PM Priority #1 Discussion	All	45 min
1:30 PM Priority #2 Discussion	All	45 min
2:15 PM BREAK		15 min
2:30 Priority #3 Discussion	All	45 min
3:15 PM Parking Lot, Wrap Up, 2007 Meeting Schedule	Laurie Cranton	45 min
4:00 PM Adjournment	Laurie Cranton	

----- Minutes -----

Wednesday January 10 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Communications Discussion	Lucas Wide	1 hr
<p>Discussion: Many communications initiatives under way for e.g. fact sheets, ads, 1-877 number, Jan. 28/07 advertorial, Service Nova Scotia information sheets for clerks, and much more. Lucas circulated his business card. Committee members are to forward all media calls regarding the Committee to Lucas who will contact the Chair (committee’s spokesperson) to coordinate a response. Lucas will inform the committee of the response as appropriate. Communications Strategy noted as Feb. agenda item. DNR indicated it will repost the provincial action plan on the OHV website when they can.</p>		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE		

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OHV Organizational Update Process			Laurie Cranton	1 hr
<p>Discussion: ATVANS, SANS, ORRA and Industry presentations noted as regular future agenda item. Other members may provide updates upon request. Field visits to be considered by the committee in the future.</p>				
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:
NONE				
New Regulations & Enforcement			Susan Hruszowy	1 hr
<p>Discussion: New regulations were reviewed. These included an amendment to General Regulations regarding the definition of written permission, an amendment to the Fees Regulations regarding trail permit fees, and a new regulation respecting designated trails and trail permits for OHVs.</p>				
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:
NONE				

Priority #1 Discussion

All

45 min

Discussion: Committee discussed *OHV Infrastructure Fund*. There is currently \$201,000 in the fund and another deposit is expected shortly. 2006 was a unique year due to implementation of the new laws, so the Fund has not significantly accumulated.

Some questions raised are: What are the needs? Who will be eligible to receive funds? What is the criteria? What will be the granting process (refer to Adopt-a-Stream program of the NS Salmon Association and many other sample processes exist)? What will be the role of the provincial organizations and the local OHV clubs? What are the existing resources that can be leveraged (dollars & in-kind)?

Members commented that the Task Force Final Report had some specific recommendations on use of the Fund, for example, #23 “SANS should be provided with an annual block grant of \$30 per registered snowmobile per year to maintain and expand its established network of managed trails”. SANS member indicated the organization has formally requested this funding from the Minister and would like the support of the committee. The committee discussed funding and reached consensus on a recommendation to the Ministers for all 3 OHV organizations.

Some members would also like core funding for SANS and ATVANS from Department of Health Promotion and Protection to continue in 2007. Core funding to the provincial associations will strengthen their programs and services so they can better serve OHV riders. A full Terms of Reference for the Fund is needed and has been noted as an agenda item for early 2007.

Members would like to see the best bang for the buck, and commented how enough OHV routes exist, but they need to be developed to a suitable trail standard. Need to show value for money.

An evaluation of the Fund has been noted as a future agenda item. This is to determine how well the \$40 collection is meeting the demands of applicants to the Fund.

Action items:

Prepare 1 page core funding proposals for SANS, ATVANS, and ORRA, and present them at the Feb. meeting.

Person responsible:

Jamie, Dave F., Peter D.

Deadline:

Feb. 20/07

A **full consensus** was reached to make a recommendation to the Ministers concerning a portion of the balance of the OHV Infrastructure Fund as at January 31, 2007. Results of the recommendation to be discussed at the February meeting.

Laurie, Ted, Jennifer

Feb. 20/07

Priority #2 Discussion - Deferred	All	45 min
Discussion: Committee opted to hear safety concerns from the off road motorcycling community presented by the Off Road Riders Association member. Concerns centered on vehicle plating and payment of the OHV Infrastructure Fund by the existing 150-200 motorcross riders in the province who ride solely on sanctioned tracks and established practice areas .		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Written proposal to be prepared and presented at February meeting focusing on the issues discussed.	Peter D.	Feb. 20/07
Priority #3 Discussion - Deferred	All	45 min
Discussion: Committee opted to hear concerns from the Industry member regarding recent dealership closures. Concerns centered on new costs imposed on riders and particularly the principle of paying the fees more so than the amount. Dealers are increasingly supportive of moving forward to improve the industry.		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE		
Parking Lot, Wrap Up, 2007 Meeting Schedule	Laurie Cranton	45 min
Discussion: There were no items on the parking lot. Wrap up was brief. 2007 meeting schedule to be discussed at February meeting.		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE		

Other Information

Meeting Adjourned: 4:15 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 20 – Wednesday February 21, 2007